stay on further proceedings on implementation of the recommendations of the Mahalik Committee appointed by RBI. Since it is an interim order, action for filing petition to have it vacated has also been initiated.

(b) and (c) The matter is sub-judice and no decision has been taken by the Central Government/RBI on the recommendations of the Committee.

Case regarding amendment of promotion rules

4536. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the time-limit given by the Hon'ble High Court of Patna to Government of India for amendment of promotion rules in its judgement of the case filed by Santhal Pargana Gramin Bank staff for amendment of promotion rules; and

(b) whether Government honoured it; if not, the reasons therefor and by when it will be notified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) While disposing of a Writ Petition filed by Santhal Pargana Gramin Bank (SPGB) Employees Association and Others, the Hon'ble High Court at Patna had observed as under:—

> "In this view of the matter, this application is disposed of with a direction to the Central Government to lay down the policy decision as early as possible and preferably within 3 months from the date of receipt of a copy of this order. We, however, hope and trust that as soon as the policy laid down by the Central Government is received by the sponsor bank and/or respondent bank the vacant posts shall be filled up in terms of the policy decision. This application is disposed of with the aforesaid mentioned direction."

The then Standing Counsel of Union Government in the Patna High Court was asked to file necessary petition before the Hon'ble High Court for grant of more time for promulgation of the Appointment and Promotion Rules by the Central Government. Necessary details regarding the present status of the matter are being ascertained from the Standing Counsel as also SPGB.

(b) Based on the recommendations of the Working Group under the Chairmanship of Shri R.C. Gupta, the then Chief General Manager in National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD), a draft of the Appointment and Promotion Rules was prepared by NABARD. The same has been revised by them after incorporating comments/views of sponsor banks. The draft rules have now been finalised in consultation with the Ministry of Law. These are being circulated to Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) for adoption.

DRI crack down on Exporters

4537. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DRI has recently cracked down on a massive brand involving some Calcutta based exporters which had resulted into a loss of several crores, by using fake licences;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against each exporter; and

(c) whether similar raids were conducted in other parts of the country and if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) There are no reports of any recent crack down by DRI on a *massive brand* involving some Calcutta based exporters. Perhaps, the Hon'ble Member has in view action initiated by DRI against some Calcutta based firms involved in *massive fraud* using fake advance licences, reported by some newspapers. Its brief details are given hereunder:

On the basis of information, various zonal units of DRI had initiated investi-

gations, in March '98 into the imports effected by one—More Group of Companies based at Calcutta. The firms were allegedly using fake advance licences for duty-free import of various goods through different ports.

Investigations conducted in the case so far have revealed that the More Group of Companies, viz. M/s More Overseas, More International, R.K. Exports, M/s M.K. Exports, M/s Hindustan National Bag and Burlap Company Limited and M/s Uni Excel Private Limited were indulging in massive evasion of customs duty by fabricating and tampering advance licences in the name of certain fictitious firms. they had effected duty free clearances of various goods including Mulberry Silk, HDPE/LDPE/PP, Copper Cathodes, R.D.B. Palmoline Oil, etc. against various fake/tampered advance licences—the goods having been cleared through ports of Kandla, Vizag and Calcutta.

Raids carried out at a number of places, coordinated by DRI have led to seizures of Mulberry Silk valued at Rs. 3.35 crores at Kandla and Calcutta, and R.B.D. Palmoline Oil totally weighing 576.4 MT and valued at Rs. 2.05 crores at Kandla, Jaipur and Gaziabad — the goods had been cleared on the strength of fake licences. The total duty evasion on imports made against such fraudulent licences is likely to exceed Rs. 20 crores.

The investigations also revealed that Shri Aswin Kumar More, having office in Calcutta, appears to have floated a number of fictitious firms. Four persons, including Shri A.K. More, have been arrested so far for their alleged involvement in the fraud and evasion of customs duty, and further investigations are in progress.

Illegal tradings at Indo-Nepal Border

4538. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of seizure made from illegal trading at Indo-Nepal border to the entire such seizure in India;

(b) whether it is a fact that this trade at this border is increasing over the years; and

(c) if so, measures taken to curb it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAN): (a) During the years 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 (upto 30.6.98) the value of seizures by DRI and three Customs Preventive Commissionerates on Indo-Nepal Border of various contraband goods, smuggled into India through the Indo-Nepal Border, accounted for Rs. 46.97 crores, Rs. 56.74 crores and Rs. 13.71 crores respectively. This works out to approximately 8.23%, 8.72% and 15.59% respectively, of the total seizures of smuggled goods made all over India by customs formations.

(b) Yes. According to available reports/intelligence, there is rising trend.

(c) All the officers of three Preventive Commissionerates of Customs on Indo-Nepal Border and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are on high alert for taking appropriate measures to prevent and detect smuggling of goods from Indo-Nepal Border. Patrolling by officers of Customs has been intensified and surprise Nakabandis at appropriate points on the routes taken for smuggling of goods are being organised from time to time. Officers of Preventive formations in the interior where the smuggled goods get marketed including those in Delhi, are also keeping surveillance and vigil and have effected seizures of contraband goods which had entered India through Indo-Nepal Border. A separate Border Police force on Indo-Nepal Border along U.P. State have been posted by State Govt. of U.P. and functioning from the year 1997 and their deployment along with the efforts of Customs Commissionerate has helped in curbing smuggling.

The issue relating to smuggling through Indo-Nepal Border and concern of Indian Government has also been taken up with the HMG of Nepal in terms of the various agreements and treaties of trade and transit, in various forums, from time